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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Open competition lies not only at the heart of our free-market system, it is especially crucial the field of high-speed internet services. My family and I moved from a suburb with broadband to a neighborhood just outside of town without it. My family and I felt suffocated as we tried to adapt. We had no idea just how much we had come to depend on reliable, affordable high-speed internet. My wife and I were taking online classes and researching daily in support of our children's schoolwork and projects. With our budget, I had come to rely on it to troubleshoot home and auto repair problems, saving us thousands of dollars we could not afford to spend on plumbers, electricians or mechanics. All of this on top of the Home Sharing network I had set up so we could watch the movies we had purchased on iTunes on our TV instead of our computer, and avoid the added costs of streaming media services.

I learned that there were only satellite ISPs in our new neighborhood, and I was shocked to see the prices for comparable bandwidth and even more frustrated to discover the data limits that come with their services.

The only affordable option was to increase the data limit on our cell phone plan (AT&T), and use our phones as a "hotspot". When we first moved in, we were grateful for the signal strength we had to make and receive calls, but trying to access the internet, even in the most minimal ways, was like having a dial-up connection. The efficiency to do the crucial tasks of managing finances, school work, etc., was gone. It was okay for our Home Sharing setup, but only if we didn't try to do anything else on the internet.

For years, despite regular requests from residents in neighboring communities, AT&T, Verizon, Spectrum - none of these providers were interested in expanding beyond the limits of the city. Clearly, meeting the needs of the people just wasn't profitable enough.

If it weren't for our local ISP, we would have continued to struggle with how much today's world increasingly requires high-speed connectivity. Please maintain your support of local, competitive ISPs!

Michael Musick